

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair
Barbara Bond, Vice-Chair
Bonnie Ariano for Secretary Lourdes Padilla
Anne Bean
Timothy Caprio
Jessica Daigle, Esq. for State's Attorney Anne Colt Leites
V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Lou Gieszl
Theresa Hiegel
Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Molly Knipe
LaJoy Preston
Joe Riley, Esq.
Jill Ritter
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Lisa Smith, Esq.
Lisa Spicknall

Guests:

Luis Arroyo, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center
Cristina Caro, Esq., Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center
Eric Seymour, Esperanza Center
Ashley Young, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Mary Abraham
Rebecca Allyn
Heather Amador
David Blum
Barbara Darley
Vanessa Lyon
Robyne McCullough
Justice Schisler

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates

Mr. Fueston informed Board members and guests that the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has transitioned to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services will be focusing on comprehensive strategies among law enforcement, victim services, and youth communities to positively impact communities as a whole in order to reduce incidents of crime and other traumatic events.

Mr. Fueston addressed a letter that was sent out earlier this month to subrecipients of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund. This letter informed subrecipients of the federal reduction of VOCA funds that will affect Maryland. Maryland has followed a model supported by federal partners to budget VOCA to protect subrecipients against unpredictable fluctuations within the past few years so subrecipients have not yet felt the impact of Maryland's reduction. The letter stated that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services will release a survey to better understand how subrecipients are using VOCA funds and identify needs, and hold listening sessions to hear from the victim services community about how the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services can support them.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is working through what the reductions will look like, and working to identify new funding opportunities at the State level to support victim service providers. Mr. Fueston encouraged providers to develop sustainability plans, foster collaborative relationships, and focus on performance measures. Mr. Fueston called upon Board members to come together to assist the efforts of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services in formulating long-term strategies to minimize the impact of any future reduction in federal awards.

Ms. Schisler informed Board members that Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) for State grant programs will begin to be posted within the next few weeks, and due dates will be approximately four weeks thereafter. Those include the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program (SOHG), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Grant Program, Maryland Domestic Violence Grant Program (DOMV), and the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Grant Program (SARC). These funding sources have a start date of 7/1/2020. Ms. Schisler stated that the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC) subrecipients are in year two of the grant award and letters of intent, pending status of the grant, will be provided in May. NOFAs for federal grant programs will be posted in April, including Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA) and Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG).

Last year, one program was awarded \$75,000 for the Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund (LSCV). This fund is administered by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services recommends awarding a second year of funding to this program in lieu of opening the NOFA for new applicants based on limited funding available for this program and the success of the current grantee in

providing legal services state-wide using this funding. Board members requested a summary of performance for this project before approving this recommendation. Ms. Allyn will provide this information to Board members following the meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the October 2019 Board meeting minutes and the Governor's Family Violence Council updates. Mr. Robertson made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Riley seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. MVOC Presentation: Services for Immigrant Crime Victims

Eric Seymour with the Esperanza Center in Baltimore City presented to Board members on the services available to immigrant victims through the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) fund. The Esperanza Center is one of the largest immigrant service providers in Maryland. The Esperanza Center offers five programs: Client Services, Educational Services, Health Services, Family Reunification Services, and Immigration Legal Services. Mr. Seymour shared that the Esperanza Center is working on building mental health provider collaboration.

V. Victim & Witness Relocation Fund and Restitution

Heather Amador updated members of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services' efforts to assist Baltimore City with victim and witness relocation protocols. Ms. Amador shared that a long-term goal is to streamline the witness relocation protocols across the State. The Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program is coordinated by the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) and members recommended that Steve Kroll, MSAA Coordinator, attend a future Board meeting when the policies and protocols are being reviewed.

Ms. Amador stated that recommendations to improve the restitution process from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services have been submitted to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board (JRA) to include in the JRA annual report. When this report is finalized it will be shared with the Board to review the restitution recommendations.

VI. 2020 Crime Victims' Rights Week

The 2020 Maryland Crime Victims Rights' Conference will be on Monday, April 20, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis. Ms. Allyn shared that workshops will include technology to increase survivor access to justice, trauma informed advocacy, victim compensation, financial exploitation of elders, family assistance centers, and accessing alternative funding sources for providers. Registration should be open in March. The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards, which are presented at the conference, will be posted soon to request nominations. Board members will be asked to assist in reviewing the nominations.

Ms. Allyn shared that the conference will use Whova to offer an app for the conference. The app will be utilized for document sharing, personal agenda, session management, interactive maps, note taking, announcements, community board, sponsors, vendors, and speaker biographies.

The Annual Memorial Services for Crime Victims will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2020. The hosts for this year's services are the State's Attorney's Offices of Baltimore City, Charles County, Dorchester County and Frederick County. Board members are invited to attend these services.

VII. Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee Update

The next Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG) meeting is on February 26. Ms. Allyn shared that the AAIWG is reviewing the use of an online forum to share the state-wide plan. Ms. Allyn encouraged members to attend these meetings, and that she will continue to update the Board on the progress of the plan.

VIII. Old/New Business

Sheriff Hofmann discussed that there is a need in Queen Anne's County to assist with providing information to victims of motor vehicle crashes after the crime. Ms. Spicknall shared that they should utilize Mothers Against Drunk Driving for those cases. Sheriff Hofmann also shared that Queen Anne's county is also needing assistance with overdoses and letting the family know where the family member is and clean-up guidance. Mr. Robertson also stated he had some information that may help Sheriff Hofmann and he will send it to him directly.

Mr. Robertson asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to develop a brochure on "what to do when the police leave?" It would have information on where does the body go, how does the family get back in the home, etc. Ms. Allyn will see if there is available funding for this.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Dickerson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:57 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/cud-vmcc-eud

Conference Line: 636-324-2843

PIN: 906 507 572#